

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 17, 2006. Claims 1 to 5, 11 to 22 are pending in the application, Claims 6 to 10 having been cancelled. Of the claims under consideration, Claims 1, 11, 16, 21 and 22 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was objected to because of a typographical error. The typographical error has been removed by the amendment to Claim 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1, 5 to 9, 11, 15 to 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,294 (Arledge). Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Arledge in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765 (Mori). Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Arledge and Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,433 (Reifman). Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Arledge in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printer controller for controlling printing of print data. The printer controller includes: a storage unit adapted to store the print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data; an input unit adapted to enable a user to input authentication information to print the print data; a collation unit adapted to collate the authentication information, input by the user, with the authentication information stored in the storage unit; and a display unit adapted to, after the user inputs the authentication

information, display a list of print data corresponding to the input authentication information. The printer controller further includes a selection unit adapted to enable the user to select at least one print data from the list of print data displayed by the display unit; a control unit adapted to control the printing of the selected print data to be performed after confirming that a print charge for printing the print data selected by the user is paid; a determination unit adapted to determine, at a specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored in the storage unit should be deleted; and a deletion unit adapted to delete each of the stored print data if the determination unit determines that each of the stored print data should be deleted.

Claim 16 as amended is directed to a data processing method for providing a print service using an information processing apparatus for storing print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data, and a printer. The data processing method first provides for transmitting authentication information, input by a user, to print the print data, from the printer to the information processing apparatus. Next, the method provides for transmitting information identifying the print data, corresponding to the input authentication information from the information processing apparatus, to the printer. Accordingly, the data processing method provides for displaying a list of print data corresponding to the input authentication information on a display panel of the printer. The data processing method allows the user to select at least one print data to print from the list of print data displayed on the display panel, where the print data is printed after confirmation that the print charge was paid. The data processing method further provides for determining, at a specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data

stored by the information processing apparatus should be deleted, and deletes each of the stored print data if determined that each print data should be deleted.

Amended Claim 11 is directed to a method corresponding to Claim 1.

Amended Claims 21 and 22 are directed to a computer program corresponding to claims 11 and 16, respectively.

Applicant submits that the applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 21 and 22. In particular, the applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of determining, at a specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored by the information processing apparatus should be deleted; and deleting each of the stored print data if said determination step determines that each print data should be deleted.

Arledge discloses that if a new order has not been processed within a predetermined time duration, the new order is automatically deleted from the system. Therefore, the retailer must always monitor the new orders, because if the retailer fails to take action on a new order before the predetermined duration expires, the order will be automatically deleted from the system.

In addition, Mori merely discloses deleting the oldest job in the job management table when the table becomes full. Since it is generally impossible to predict when the table becomes full, Mori fails to disclose deleting the job at a specific time specified by the user. Moreover, Mori shows a monitoring process in Fig. 10 of the specification where the computer judges whether any job in the management table is set to delete enabled. That is, Mori discloses that a computer must always execute a job monitoring process in order to determine which job to delete.

Finally, the remaining references have been reviewed and are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Arledge and Mori.

Therefore, the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest determining, at a specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored by the information processing apparatus should be deleted, and a deletion step of deleting each of the stored print data if the determination step determines that each print data should be deleted.

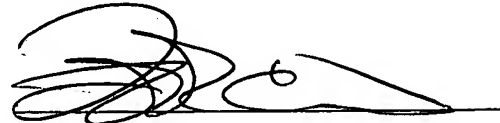
In light of the deficiencies of the applied references as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 21 and 22 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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